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THE MOST

Surprising Adventures,

AND

Wonderful Discoveries,

OF

JOSEPH HANWAY,

AN

ENGLISH SAILOR,

Who, in a Voyage round the World, was cast away on a barren Rock, in South America.

Entered according to Order this present Year.

THE

ADVENTURES

OF

JOSEPH HANWAY.

WE ſailed from the Downs, the 3d of February, 1620. We were bound to the Spaniſh main, in hopes to meet with ſome rich prize from that land of gold. Being arrived in the Gulf of Mexico without meeting with any thing, after taking in freſh water, on the 7th of June, we ſailed from Aquilco, with a very fine freſh breeze. The wind being then at N. N. E. it blew a moſt ſurpriſing violent gale of wind, and there being a heavy ſea, our ſhip took in a great deal of water. The wind continuing two days, and ſtill encreaſing, when it grew dark we deſpaired of ſaving the ſhip. I being the moſt active, took a hatchet which tumbled about the deck, and I ran up to the ſhrouds in order to cut down what ſtopt the main-yard, but by the time I got up, there came a ſudden ſqual, which daſhed the ſhip to pieces againſt a rock, where having the good fortune to fall in a cleft, I was hindred from being waſhed back into the ſea and drowned, as every body elſe were that belonged to the ſhip. In this diſmal condition I remained the ſucceeding night in the cleft, being continually beaten with the daſhing of the ſea, and bruiſed and benumbed. In the morning I pulled off my wet clothes and ſpread them in the ſun; being over-

fatigued I laid myself down on the smoothest part of the rock I could find, (quite spent with the hardship I had undergone,) and slept while my cloaths were drying.

Being driven on shore near Consa Bay, in South America, I returned thanks for my late deliverance, and resigned myself on providence, on whom I fully relied for my wants.

Very early one morning, the weather being extremely fair, and the sea wonderful calm, as I was taking my usual turn, I accidentally fell in with a Spanish merchant, who had come that way to look out for a ship that he expected from Mexico; and as we were viewing the rocks which abound in those seas, he desired me to take notice of a vast long one about seven leagues from shore, which he said was supposed to inclose some land, by it's great extent, but the access to it was dangerous, by reason of the rocks which reach so far under water, being in some places too shallow for boats, and in others too deep to foord over, and the sea being commonly very rough in that place, it prevented further search; supposing the advantage which might occur from the land, would not counter balance the cost and trouble of making it tenable; for that he and some friends had attempted to make the land on a fine day, and could reach no further than fifty yards from the main rock, and were forced to return as unsatisfied as they went, only having the pleasure of catching some delicious fish, which lay playing upon the surface of the water. We soon agreed to make another attempt, and hired a young man to row us thither, for about the value of a shilling. Whilst we were fishing, the young man that rowed us, spying a cleft in the rock, through which he saw a beautiful light, and had a mind to see what was on the other side, he cast off his cloaths in order to wade it. Being come to the cleft he crept through, and in a short time returns, calling to us with precipitation, which expressed both joy and surprise; Gentlemen! gentlemen! (said he) I have made a discovery of a new land, and the

fineſt that ever the ſun ſhined upon; leave off your fiſhing, you'll find here much better buſineſs. Having by that time caught a pretty handſome diſh of fiſh, we put up our takling, faſtened our boat to the rock, and ſo went to ſee the new found land.

Being come to the other ſide of the rock, we ſaw as he ſaid, a moſt delightful country, but deſpaired of getting to it, there being a lake about a mile long at the bottom of the rock, which parted it from the land, for neither the Spaniard nor myſelf could ſwim, but the young fellow who could, having leaped into the water, and finding it all the way but breaſt high, we went in alſo and waded to the other ſide, which we aſcended gently five or ſix feet from the lake, to a moſt pleaſant land flat and level, covered with a curious graſs ſomething like camomile, but of no ſmell, and of an agreeable taſte. It bore alſo lofty trees, forming themſelves into delightful woods.

The agreeableneſs of the perſpective made by nature, both for creating pleaſure, and condolence of grief, prompted my curioſity to view the delightful ſcene, which the diſtance we were at might in ſome meaſure rob us of: but the Spaniard, who till then had diſcerned nothing whereby we could judge the iſland to be inhabited, we were fearful, and would not venture further that way, leſt we ſhould of a ſudden be ſet upon by wild beaſts.

Having walked ſome time in this moſt wonderful place, and viewing the aſtoniſhing works of God, we went on; finding ſeveral of the monkey kind here, which differed from all others I ever ſaw.

At ſome diſtance we perceived things like houſes, but being come near enough to diſcern better, we found what we took for houſes were rather arbours, being apparently made of green trees. Then indeed I began to fancy ſome wild people inhabited the iſland.

Being full of admiration at the wonderful nature and ſtructure of the place, we came to a door made of green

twigs, which was neatly woven, and faſtened with a ſmall ſtick through a loop made of the ſame.

The door being faſtened without gave us encouragement to venture in, it being evident that the hoſt was abſent. Having viewed the furniture of the houſe with ſurpriſe and wonder, every thing in it being made of the produce of the iſland. We ſaw two old firelocks, a bed with the blankets made of twilted graſs, and a table made of ſticks, with ſhells for plates. We were confirmed in our opinion that it was an hermitage.

Walking a little farther on, a phlegm ſticking in my throat, I happened to haugh pretty loud, the noiſe was anſwered from I believe twenty places of the rock, and in as many different ſounds, which alarmed my companion ſo much, that he thought it to be a ſignal from men concealed up and down, and who were now ready to come and murder us. I did all I could to make him believe they were but echoes, and to convince him thereof, I gave a loud hem, which was anſwered in like manner; but being a ſecond time repeated, and by a louder voice, I was certain the laſt did not pooceed from me, which put us in apprehenſion that ſomebody hemmed alſo. My companion turned as pale as death, and would have run away, had not the voice come from the very way we had to go.

We were ſcarce got forty paces farther, before we perceived at a conſiderable diſtance ſomething like a man with another creature, but preſently loſt ſight of them among the trees; being gone about a hundred yards farther we ſaw them again, but nearer and without interruption. Thus having a full view, we were to our great ſatisfaction convinced that what we had taken for a formidable giant, and a terrible ſhe bear was but an ordinary man. When he came a little nearer us, he appeared to be a venerable old man, with a worſhipful white beard which covered his naked breaſt, and a long head of hair of the ſame colour, which ſpreading over his ſhoulders, hung down to his loins.

His presence which inspired respect more than fear, soon recalled our frighted senses. The old man (who by this time was come near enough to discern our speaking English) lets fall a bundle of sticks he had under his arm, and a hatchet he caaried in the other hand, and runs to me, (being the next to him) embracing me and saying, Dear countryman, by what accident are you come hither? a place, the which is defended by a thousand perils and dangers, and not to be come at but by a narrow escape of death! Are you shipwrecked? No, thank God, said I, most reverend father, it was mere curiosity that brought us hither; these perils which you say defend the approach of this island, being absent, by the extraordinary calmness of the sea, brought us hither: But pray how came you hither? By the help of Providence (replied the good old man) who snatched me from the ravenous jaws of death, to fix me in this safe and peaceable spot of land.

I was shipwrecked, thanks to my Maker, and was saved by being cast away! And, was I to be made emperor of the whole universe, I would not be concerned with the world again; nor would you require it of me, did you but know the happiness I enjoy out of it; every thing in this little Paradise is subservient to my use, and enjoy fellowship with my God in a more delightful manner than when I was in the world. Come, you shall dine with me, and after that you shall go to church with me, that we may praise God in his own congregation, for all our mercies and deliverances. So we went to a wood about a mile farther off, where he had fastened several low nets, in different gaps, in one of which happened to be an animal something like a fawn, twice as big as a hare, of the colour of a fox, and faced and footed like a goat. Did I not tell you, said the good man, I might chance to give you venison; now let us look for the fowls. So we went a little further, to a place where he had hung a low net, between two trees, at the bottom of which was fastened a bag of the same.

to receive the fowls, who, in the night, being ſtopped by the net, fluttered to the bottom A couple of fowls, like woodcocks, but of the bigneſs and colour of a pheaſant, were taken at the bottom of the bag: well, ſays he, now I may give you a diſh of fiſh alſo, it is but going half a mile or thereabouts. There's no need, Sir, ſaid I, for any more, here's proviſion for half a ſcore. We ſee Providence ſupplies you plentifully with neceſſaries, if old age does not prevent you. Age! why I'm not ſo old as that comes to neither, I was but eight and twenty when caſt away, and that is but fifty years ago; indeed, if I lived as you do in the wide world, who hurry on your days as if your end came on too ſlow, I might be accounted old. on which he gave a hem, with ſuch ſtrength and clearneſs, that the ſound made my ears tingle for ſome minutes after, indeed, Sir, ſaid I, you have ſo far out-done what I can pretend to, that I will not pretend to imitate you, but rather think myſelf the oldeſt man.

Dinner being over, he took us away to church, as he called it, this was an hollow part of the rock, which went in like an alcove, with a great many concavities in it, in rows one above another, as round nitches where figures ſtand. Now, ſaid the old man here I come once each day, and pay my devotion; we ſhall now ſing a ſhort Pſalm, there can be no harm in that, but rather good, being an holy exerciſe in divine worſhip, in which all good ſouls ought to join: and being come to a part of the rock as the lake would permit: Now, ſays the old man let us ſing the tenth Pſalm. Sir, ſaid I, I cannot know it by heart, and I have no pſalm book about me. Well then ſaid he, I'll ſing myſelf, ſo begun, with a clear and loud voice managed with ſo much skill and judgment, that it exceeded all the ſinging I ever heard before, and was repeated by ſuch a number of melodious echoes, that one would have believed there were two hundred voices in the chorus.

The time being now come that we muſt leave this

enchanted iſland, the good old man takes me in his open arms, and embraces me over and over, with all the tenderneſs that words and actions could expreſs, renewing of his paſt grief, and would in a conſiderable time damp the pleaſure he did enjoy before my coming to his ſolitude; ſo we parted and left this delightful place, and got ſafe back; we weighed anchor June 3d, 1730, and ſtood out to ſea (meeting ſtormy weather,) and began to traffick in our way home; but our ſhip beginning to grow leaky we could hardly keep her up. At laſt we met with one of his Majeſty's ſhips of war, returning from the Weſt Indies, and by her was carried into Plymouth.

JOSEPH HANWAY.